[Translation]

Violent Incidents During Polls

648. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of persons died/injured in the violent incidents during the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies polls, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Water Testing Laboratories

649. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of a water testing laboratory in each district of the State;

(b) whether the Government have also received such proposals from other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The Union Government have received proposals for setting up of Water Testing Laboratories for drinking water, in rural areas in each district, from the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) For the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, the Union Government has approved the proposals received so far and released the funds to the respective State Governments accordingly. For the State of Jammu & Kashmir, Water Testing laboratories have been approved in six districts so far.

[English]

Disruption of Trains

650. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the train services in he Southern Railway were disrupted due to derailment of a goods trains near ERODE recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of days it took to normalise the train services on the route; and

(c) the steps taken to help the passengers who had booked their tickets one month before in the long-distance trains such as Mangla and Kerala Express etc. to reach their destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Train services on Southern Railway were disrupted due to a major goods train accident on 14.6.96.

(b) 38 trains were partially cancelled/regulated and 159 trains were fully cancelled. All services were restored from 24.6.94.

(c) Passengers desirous of availing alternative accommodations were helped by permitting them to travel in alternate trains. Refund of fares was arranged at all stations on the Divisions. Buses were arranged to transhps the stranded passengers.

Criminal records of Students

651. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Delhi Police on the background of students enrolled with a view to checkup their criminal records; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Home Delivery Licence by D.M.S.

652. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING be pleased to State.

(a) whether the Government issue Milk Home Delivery Licences Under the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for issuance of the same;

(c) the number of licences issued so far under this scheme;

(d) whether several members of the same family have been issued Milk Home Delivery Licences under the scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Delhi Milk Scheme issues Milk Home Delivery cards. These cards are issued

only to physically handicapped persons, widows, students and persons with monthly income of below Rs. 300/-.

(c) 2886 cards have been issued.

(d) No, Sir. Only one Home Delivery Card is issued against one ration card.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

[English]

Chakmas in North-Eastern States

653. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing discontentment among the Chakmas in the Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and N.E States; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken to solve the problem to Chakmas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Certain organisations like the All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (AAPSU) in Arunachal Pradesh and the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) in Mizoram have been demanding the expulsion of 'foreigners' including Chakmas. The Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh, on the other hand, have alleged violation of their human rights through intimidation and denial of basic amenities. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh was advised to protect the life and property of all residents including the Chakmas in the State. A High Level Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister on December 26, 1995 to look into the background of issues of Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunachal Pradesh and to identify the course of action to be adopted. The Group, in its first meeting on January 5, 1996 constituted an Official Level Sub-Committee. On January 9, 1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed, inter alia, that the life and personal liberty of each and every Chakma residing within the State would be protected and that except in accordance with law the Chakmas would not be evicted from their homes. On a reference from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, the State Government has been informed that the High Level Group and the Sub-Committee can continue to carry on their work, but such work will have to be in aid of the directions given by the Supreme Court, and not in derogation thereof. The State Government has been requested to indicate its convenience for the visit of the Sub-Committee to Arunachal Pradesh.

As regards the agitation relating to the expulsion of the Chakmas alleged to have come to Mizoram from outside, the State Government is handling the situation. The Central Government has advised the State Government that any work of identification, etc. of foreigners should be carried out in accordance with the provisions of law and as per relevant instructions. It has also been suggested that any work in this connection needs to be carried out through governmental agencies only.

Crisis Alert System

654. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Crisis Alert System to manage chemical accidents in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). According to the provisions of the proposed rules called the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996, the Central Government will set up a Crisis Alert System within a stipulated time period. The salient features of the proposed system are as follows.

(i) A functional Control Room alongwith an information networking system with the State and district control rooms will be set up at the Central Level.

(ii) The Control Room will be furnished with the information namely major accident hazard installations in the country, major chemical accidents in chronological order, list of members of the Central, State and Distnct Crisis Groups and databases on hazardous chemicals.

(iii) Adequate staff and experts will be appointed to man the functional Control Room.

(iv) It will also take measure to create awareness among the public with a view to preventing chemical accidents.

Cement Plant at Siju

655. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with the Associated Cement Company is setting up a giant cement plant at Siju, Garo Hills which is a very beautiful network of natural caves of great importance from the tounsm point of view;